

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
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P 101140Z MAR 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2022
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0106

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES OF
MARCH 8, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE MARCH 8, 1977, INFORMAL SESSION OF
THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN
REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS TARASOV
AND SHUSTOV, CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER, AND GDR REP OESER.
MILITARY ADVISERS ALSO PARTICIPATED.

2. THE FORMAT OF THE SESSION, A LENGTHY ONE, WAS THE SAME AS
IN THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS: EACH SIDE MADE ON GENERAL
STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION THEN MOVED TO DATA AND COUNTING RULES.
THE TONE OF EASTERN REPS REMARKS WAS ONCE AGAIN QUERULOUS.
EASTERN REPS ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN COUNTING
RULES, SOME HAVING TO DO WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE FORCES OF
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NON-PARTICIPANTS FROM THE WESTERN COUNT. WESTERN REPS ANSWERED
MOST OF THESE QUESTIONS IN CONFORMITY WITH PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND
ASKED EAST QUESTIONS ABOUT PERSONNEL WHICH THEY HAD EXCLUDED
FROM THEIR COUNT. EASTERN REPS ANSWERED WESTERN QUESTION FROM
MARCH 1 SESSION ABOUT EASTERN EXCLUSIONS OF PERSONNEL OF POLISH
TERRITORIAL FORCES IN A NON-RESPONSIVE WAY AND WESTERN REPS
RE-ASKED THE QUESTION. EASTERN REPS QUESTIONED RELEVANCE OF

WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN EXCLUSIONS AND IN THIS CONTEXT AGAIN SUGGESTED TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS. THE SITUATION WAS SUCH THAT THE WEST WAS NOT CALLED ON TO RESPOND ON THIS POINT. TARASOV DEFENDED EARLIER EASTERN POSITIONS AS CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT EASTERN DATA. THE WEST CITED ADDITIONAL EASTERN POSITIONS WHICH WERE INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT EASTERN DATA.

3. GDR REP OPENED WITH GENERAL CRITICISM OF WESTERN MIXED-PACKAGE APPROACH AND SAID THE EASTERN POSITION, BASED ON REDUCTION OF THE SAME TYPES OF ARMAMENTS ON EACH SIDE, SHOULD BE USED AS THE BASIS OF AN AGREEMENT. BELGIAN REP SUBSTANTIATED WESTERN POINT THAT THE EAST HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS SINCE THE OUTSET OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE WEST HAD ADDED TO ITS POSITION. THE EAST CONSEQUENTLY CONTINUED TO OWE THE WEST A SERIOUS ANSWER TO THE WESTERN DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSAL.

4. CZECHOSLOVAK REP QUESTIONED WHETHER THE WEST HAD REALLY APPLIED THE SAME COUNTING RULES TO EASTERN FORCES AS IT HAD TO ITS OWN WESTERN FORCES OR WHETHER THE WEST HAD USED SOME OTHER COUNTING RULES IN REACHING ITS ESTIMATES OF EASTERN FORCES. HE SAID THAT IF THE WEST HAD USED THE SAME RULES FOR BOTH SIDES, THERE WOULD BE NO DISCREPANCY OR DISPARITY. CZECHOSLOVAK REP AGAIN ASKED FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF HOW THE WEST HAD COUNTED ITS OWN FORCES AND WHETHER IT HAD USED THE ROSTER PRINCIPLE. AFTER LONG DISCUSSION AS TO THE PRECISE MEANING OF THE WESTERN QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EAST HAD PRIOR TO 1 JANUARY 1976 CHANGED THE STATUS OF ANY EASTERN MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM ACTIVE DUTY TO SOME OTHER STATUS, EASTERN REPS SAID THAT EAST
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HAD NOT DONE SO.

5. CZECHOSLOVAK REP INCORRECTLY CHARACTERIZED WESTERN QUESTION FROM MARCH 1 INFORMAL SESSION AS TO WHETHER THE TERM USED BY THE EAST POLISH TERRITORIAL FORCES, THE CONSCRIPT PERSONNEL OF WHICH THE EAST HAD EXCLUDED FROM ITS FIGURES, REFERRED SOLELY TO THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS WOJSKA OBRONY

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2023

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0106

FROM US REP MBFR

TERYTORIALNEJ (WOT) OR TO OTHERS IN ADDITION. CZECHOSLOVAK
REP SAID THAT THE EAST HAD COUNTED PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL
OF POLISH TERRITORIAL FORCES AND OMITTED CONSCRIPTS. HE CLAIMED
THAT POLISH TERRITORIAL CONSCRIPT PERSONNEL DID NOT PERFORM
REAR SERVICE FUNCTIONS FOR THE ARMED SERVICES. IN SUBSEQUENT
DISCUSSION, WESTERN REPS RE-ASKED ORIGINAL WESTERN QUESTION
AND EASTERN REPS SAID THEY WOULD ANSWER IT LATER.

6. CZECHOSLOVAK REP ASKED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS OF WEST:

(A) WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES WERE REQUESTED TO CLIRIFY THE TERM
QUOTE PEACETIME AUTHORIZED STRENGTH UNQUOTE THAT THEY USED IN
MARCH 1 INFORMAL; (B) HE ASKED QUOTE ON THE ACCOUNT OF WHICH
ARMED FORCES WILL BE COMPENSATED DURING REDUCTIONS THE FORCES
LOCATED IN THE REDUCTION AREA BUT NOT SUBJECT TO REDUCTIONS,
AND WHAT ARE THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF SUCH FORCES? UNQUOTE.
COMMENT: THE FIRST PART OF THE QUESTION APPARENTLY MEANS:
WHICH WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANT WILL TAKE THE REDUCTIONS WHICH
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WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE FRENCH FORCES IF FRANCE HAD BEEN
A PARTICIPANT IN THE TALKS? OR, MORE GENERALLY, HOW WOULD
THESE REDUCTIONS BE ALLOCATED AMONG WESTERN DIRECT
PARTICIPANTS? END COMMENT. (C) EASTERN REPS WISHED TO HAVE SOME
PRECISION AS TO WHETHER THE FORCES OF THE GARRISONS OF
WEST BERLIN HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE NATO TOTALS. (D) THE
WEST HAD SAID IT HAD COUNTED UNDER ITS ACTUAL STRENGTH CONCEPT
THOSE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE AREA BUT TEMPORARILY ABSENT.
WHAT COUNTING RULES HAD BEEN USED FOR THE DUAL-BASED FORCES
OF THE USA,UK AND CANADA WHO WERE, AS WAS KNOWN, ASSIGNED
TO THE REDUCTION AREA? (E) EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES WANTED

PRECISION AS TO THE REASONS FOR A REDUCTION IN WESTERN FIGURES OF WESTERN AIR FORCE MANPOWER FROM 200,000 TO 190,000 MEN.

7. US REP ANSWERED QUESTIONS (B), (C) AND (E) ALONG LINES APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP. TARASOV ASKED HOW THE EAST COULD BE SURE ABOUT THE TOTAL OF FRENCH FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA AND US REP MADE POINT THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE FIGURES ON FORCES OF NON-PARTICIPANTS.

8. AFTER ASKING QUESTIONS ON POLISH TERRITORIALS MENTIONED ABOVE, US REP ASKED SERIES OF FURTHER QUESTIONS ON EASTERN EXCLUSIONS. TARASOV QUESTIONED RELEVANCE OF WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN EXCLUSIONS AND THIS ISSUE WAS DEBATED. TARASOV AGAIN SUGGESTED TABLING OF TOTALS ON EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT.

9. TARASOV MADE STATEMENT DEFENDING EAST FROM WESTERN CHANGES OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN EARLIER EASTERN POSITIONS AND PRESENT EASTERN CLAIMS ON SIZE OF WARSAW PACT FORCES. UK REP DESCRIBED ADDITIONAL EASTERN POSITIONS WHICH WERE INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT EASTERN DATA CLAIMS. END SUMMARY.

10. IN ORDER TO GET FULL TEXT OF INFORMAL TO INTERESTED WASHINGTON OFFICIAL PROMPTLY, AS AN EXPERIEMENT WE ARE ON THIS SECRET

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OCCASION SENDING FULL TEXT BY POUCH TO LEON SLOSS OF ACDA FOR REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. DELEGATION WILL POUCH TO LATERAL POSTS. THIS SHOULD SAVE CONSIDERABLE TIME OVER NORMAL PROCESSING OF AIRGRAMS WHILE HOLDING DOWN TELEGRAM REPORTING.

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